

Citizens Cable Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
WRAC Studio  
Willmar, Minnesota

September 10, 2015

The Willmar Citizens Cable Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Ron Christianson. Members present were Ron Christianson, Denis Anderson, Susan Mattson, Jodi Wambeke, and Larry Fujan. Members excused were Linda Mathiasen. Others in attendance were Rudy Vigil, Local Access Coordinator, Ross Smeby, Information Systems Coordinator, and Brian Grogan, Cable Attorney who participated by conference call.

Item No. 1 Consent Items

Council Member Christianson asked if there was any discussion on the minutes of August 27, 2015, there being no discussion, Council Member Anderson moved to approve the minutes of August 27, 2015. Committee Member Ms. Wambeke seconded the motion which carried.

Item No. 2 Programming Appeal

Mr. Grogan informed the Committee that the purpose of this meeting was to take time to review all of the information regarding the appeal and the options available to the Committee which were to uphold, revoke, or modify the suspension. Mr. Fujan asked Mr. Grogan if there were more incidents other than the episode that was pulled that led to the suspension. Mr. Grogan stated that the suspension was based on a violation of the rules of the City. Council Member Anderson asked what the 180 day suspension was based on. Mr. Grogan stated that there were no guidelines from the old policy but it was appropriately based on the length of the violations. Council Member Anderson asked if what the City has done so far is correct and Mr. Grogan mentioned that the actions taken by the City are reasonable and appropriate. Council Member Christianson asked if there were any First Amendment violations with the suspension. Mr. Grogan stated that there were none. However, the programs that had been pulled potentially violated State law.

Mr. Skor stated that he was still not sure why he was suspended because he felt that he was working with everyone and nothing had been stated to him. Council Member Anderson asked when the suspension had started. Mr. Skor presented a letter to the Committee that was dated July 17. The Committee posed the question of the appropriate suspension length. Mr. Grogan informed the Committee that there was no objective formula to how many days a person can be suspended, but that it is the Committee's discretion to what the length can be or if the suspension should be repealed. Mr. Grogan also informed the Committee that the City has no say in disputes which occur on social media. However, when the dispute occurs on the City's public channel the City has to be involved when a complaint is issued. Council Member Anderson asked if other appeals would have to follow the same precedent as Mr. Skor's. Mr. Grogan stated that there can be different suspension times as long as there is rational for the different times. Council Member Christianson informed the Committee of the weekly memo that had been sent to the Council that stated that the suspension can be reviewed. Council Member Christianson asked the Committee how they want to proceed. Ms. Mattson suggested that the six month suspension be upheld. Mr. Fujan recommended leaving the suspension in place but changing it to time served. Ms. Wambeke recommended upholding the 6 month suspension. Council Member Christianson recommended a 90 day suspension. Council Member Anderson moved to reduce the suspension to 120 days. Mr. Fujan seconded the motion which carried.

Item No. 3 Other Business

Mr. Smeby informed the Committee that there was a Charter merger occurring that would change the company into New Charter. Mr. Grogan had drafted a resolution on the merger but it would go directly to Council.

Item No. 4 Consideration of Future Meetings

The Committee agreed to meet as necessary but at a minimum of twice a year.

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ross Smeby  
Information Systems Coordinator